ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An internal combustion engine is capable of changing a compression ratio according to an output torque. A motor is connected with an output shaft of the internal combustion engine to transmit torque to and from the output shaft. The internal combustion engine detects a torque demand required to the internal combustion engine. When the torque demand exceeds a threshold torque, which is set in advance for changeover of setting of the compression ratio in the internal combustion engine, the motor is controlled to output a torque to the output shaft. The torque output from the motor restricts the output torque of the internal combustion engine to be not greater than the threshold torque. Such control effectively prevents frequent changeover of the setting of the compression ratio in the internal combustion engine. This arrangement desirably saves energy required for the frequent changeover of the compression ratio and thus enhances the total efficiency of the internal combustion engine. This arrangement also keeps the operator of the internal combustion engine free from the sense of discomfort. The motor is capable of a quick increase of the output torque. The motor thus instantly increases the output torque, in response to an increase in torque demand.